

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 13528

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: AMERICAN MOHAWK REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: (A) HONG KONG 12539 (B) HONG KONG 12397
(C) HONG KONG 12369 (D) BROH-KAHN/BUCHER PHONE CONVER-
SATION

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTELS, MISSION OFFICER CALLED ON UNHCR ACTING CHIEF ASIAN DIVISION OTTO GOBIUS. AFTER A RECAPITULATION OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE LANDING OF THE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG FROM THE AMERICAN MOHAWK, MISSION OFFICER EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT THAT CARPENTER AND, INDIRECTLY, SAMPATKUMAR HAD BEEN OF SO LITTLE HELP TO US DESPITE THE MISSION'S URGENT APPEAL TO THE UNHCR FOR SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH THE REFUGEES HAD NOW LANDED, WE STILL WERE VERY MUCH IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNHCR SINCE THE 171 MOHAWK AMERICAN REFUGEES ARE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO MACAU ON SEPTEMBER 12.

2. GOBIUS SAID HE COULD NOT REPEAT NOT EXPLAIN WHY
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CARPENTER HAD BEEN SO RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT THE U.S. INTERVENTION IN BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN MOHAWK REFUGEES. HE THOUGHT CARPENTER WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS TO DO SO FROM THE UNHCR HEADQUARTERS CABLE OF SEPTEMBER 5.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST THAT CARPENTER GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO MOVING THE 171 REFUGEES TO MACAU, GOBIUS

PROMISED HE WOULD CABLE IMMEDIATELY AND FOLLOW UP WITH A PHONE CALL ORDERING HIM TO GIVE HIS ATTENTION TO THE MATTER.

4. MISSION OFFICER REFERRED TO SAMPATKUMAR'S REQUEST FOR LIST OF 300 CAT I THROUGH III REFUGEES (REF C) AND EXPRESSED HOPE THIS WAS PRELUDE TO IMMINENT TRANSFER OF THESE REFUGEES TO MACAU. GOBIUS SAID HE TOO WAS HOPEFUL SUCH WAS THE CASE, BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH CARPENTER. GOBIUS WAS URGED AGAIN TO IMPRESS UPON CARPENTER THE NECESSITY OF TRANSFERRING MORE REFUGEES TO MACAU FROM HONG KONG.

5. MISSION OFFICER TOLD GOBIUS THAT WE UNDERSTOOD GOVERNMENTS OF MACAU AND HONG KONG WOULD BE FAVORABLY INCLINED TO ATTENDING HIGH COMMISSIONER'S BRIEFING AT KUALA LUMPUR IF INVITED (REF D). GOBIUS SAID THAT WAS GOOD NEWS AND HE WOULD LOOK INTO MEANS OF INVITING THEM. VANDEN HEUVEL

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